

CITY OF ROCHESTER



REPORT
of
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Urban Sanitary District
and
Port Sanitary District

1934

ROCHESTER :
BALLARD & SON, PRINTERS, 336 HIGH STREET

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
CITY OF ROCHESTER.

JUNE, 1935.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE CITY OF ROCHESTER.
YOUR WORSHIP AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the community and various factors associated with the public welfare.

This is my first annual report as Medical Officer of Health to the City. My predecessor, Dr. S. Pritchett, retired on June 10th, 1935, and I would like to record my appreciation of the assistance and courtesy which he has extended to me in the preparation of this report which deals, inter alia, with public health matters relevant to the earlier part of the year when Dr. Pritchett held office as Medical Officer of Health.

Particulars of social, sanitary, medical and ancillary services are shown in the body of the report, but there are certain matters to which I would draw your particular attention:—

Population. At the date of the Census in 1931 the population of the City was 31196. The Registrar General's estimate of population (mid-year 1934) is 3600. This increase is partially due to the extension of the City Boundaries on April 1st, 1934, but the large increase in the number of new houses indicates additional influx of population (see page 12). The number of Births has also risen considerably, there being 480 registered in 1934 as against 396 in 1933.

Mortality and Sickness. The Death Rate (corrected) was 11.5 in 1934. In 1933 it was 12.4, and in 1901 it was 14.9 per 1000 persons living.

The Infantile Mortality (deaths of children under 1 year of age per 1000 births) is higher than in the three preceding years (50 as compared with 35 per 1000 births.) The increase to some extent is explicable by the preceding very low rate in 1933 and the larger number of births in 1934.

Cancer. In the 5 years 1901-1905, there were on the average 22 deaths annually from Cancer (death rate 0.70 per 1000). In 1934 there were 54 deaths (death rate 1.6 per 1000). In other words the Death rate from this cause has been doubled in the last 30 years. The explanation of this increase is in part due to the fact that the expectation of life is greater than it was 30 years ago with the result that more persons reach the cancerous age of advancing years, and in part to the increased reliability and improved modern methods in diagnosis. These facts may or may not explain the whole increase, and it is held by some that there is an actual, as well as an apparent increase in this disease.

Tuberculosis. The mortality from Tuberculosis has been halved in the past 30 years. The mortality decrease has occurred in both Pulmonary and Non-pulmonary forms of the disease, but is more marked in the latter. In the five years period ending 1905 there were on the average 35 deaths annually from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 17 from Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis. The corresponding figures for the five years period ending 1934 were 22 and 4 respectively.

Infectious Diseases. There have been no epidemics reaching serious dimensions during the year, and as far as can be judged from the available information it does not appear to have been a year of excessive invalidity and sickness.

Housing Conditions. The erection of new houses by private enterprise and by the local authority is proceeding rapidly (see page 12) and the clearance of insanitary property under the Housing Act, 1930, is taking place in accordance with the five years programme adopted by the Council in 1933. When the Council scheme is completed, 100 houses will have been erected for re-housing purposes under the Act.

Verminous infestation of houses is a very common occurrence, particularly in old houses, but it is also not infrequently found in new houses and may affect perfectly clean houses (see pages 17 and 18 of Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report). The most prevalent and troublesome pest is the Common Bed Bug, the annihilation of which was extremely difficult until deinfestation by Hydrogen Cyanide gas was introduced. This gas is extremely dangerous in use unless the fullest and most careful precautions are adopted, but as an exterminator of the bed bug and its eggs it is unequalled and if it can efficiently be used never fails to effect a remedy.

In conclusion I desire to thank all members of the staff for their assistance and co-operation throughout the year. I am also indebted to the officials of other departments for various items of information and for their helpful collaboration not only in the preparation of this report, but in all matters affecting the Public Health.

To the Chairmen and Members of the Committees dealing with the diverse public health functions I wish to tender my thanks for the support and sympathetic consideration given to the department, in their endeavours to promote the health and general well being of the community.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

J. O. MURRAY.

CITY OF ROCHESTER



Report as to Urban District

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

- * S. PRITCHETT, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Eng. Conj.)
(retired 10/6/34)
- J. O. MURRAY, M.D. (Edin. Univ.), Ch.B. (Edin. Univ.), D.P.H. (Liverpool Univ.)
(appointed 11/6/34)

Chief Sanitary Inspector

- * THOMAS TOPPING, F.R. SAN. I., C.R.S.I., C.M.I., C.L.S.I.B.,
Medallist Final Honours Hygiene.

Sanitary Inspectors

- * E. W. BARTON, C.R.S.I., C.M.I.
- * A. H. W. CHAPMAN, C.S.I.E.B., C.M.I.

Veterinary Inspector (part time)

ELMER EBBETTS, M.R.C.V.S.

Health Visitors

- **††* Miss H. G. TOD
- ††**†§* Miss C. J. GEELEHER

Clerk

Miss W. JONES

- * Indicates officials to whose salaries contributions are made under the Public Health Acts or by Exchequer Grants.
- † Also District Nursing Certificate.
- † Certificate of Central Midwives Board.
- § Four years General Training, S.R.N.
- || Royal Sanitary Institute, Certificate for Health Visitors.
- || „ „ „ „ „ Sanitary Inspectors.
- ** Infectious Diseases Certificate.
- †† Hygiene Diploma and Tropical Nursing.

AREA (IN ACRES), LAND AND INLAND WATER

	CENSUS 1931	(of which 515 acres were added 1-1-34)	
POPULATION	... .. 31196	ESTIMATED (Middle of 1934)	...
		R.G. figure for use with composite statistics	... 32
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES	(end of 1934)	ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS	9
RATEABLE VALUE	...	...	£216
SUM REPRESENTING A PENNY RATE	...	Gross	£849, Nett

	1931	1921
(a) Total Dwellings occupied	7415	6792
do. vacant	180	
(b) Number of private families therein	7925	7244
(c) Average number of persons per family	3.72	4.17
(d) Average size of occupied dwellings	5.28 rooms	5.38 rooms
(e) Families living with more than 2 persons per room density	223	184
	(1271 persons)	(1439 persons)

		TOTAL.	M.	F.
LIVE BIRTHS	{ LEGITIMATE	463	227	236
	{ ILLEGITIMATE	17	7	10
STILL BIRTHS	{ LEGITIMATE	20	9	11
	{ ILLEGITIMATE	3	2	1
DEATHS. All causes at all ages		408	209	199
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.	{ PUERPERAL SEPSIS			...
	{ OTHER PUERPERAL CAUSES			...
	TOTAL
NATURAL INCREASE IN POPULATION (Excess Births over Deaths)				...

ALL INFANTS PER 1000 LIVE BIRTHS
LEGITIMATE INFANTS PER 1000 LEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS
ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS PER 1000 ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS
DEATHS FROM MEASLES (ALL AGES)
" " WHOOPING COUGH (ALL AGES)
" " DIARRHOEA (UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE)

The following Table shews a comparison between the "Rates" in this District and those in other parts of England and Wales for the year 1934.

			Rate per 1000 Resident Population Live Births	Deaths per 1000 population	Deaths under 1 per 1000 Regist Live Births
England and Wales	...	...	14.8	11.8	59
121 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	...	...	14.7	11.8	63
132 Smaller Towns. 25,000 to 50,000	Populations from	...	15.0	11.3	53
London	...	...	13.2	11.9	67
Rochester	...	...	14.6	Crude 12.4 Corrected 11.5	50

PRINCIPAL CERTIFIABLE CAUSES OF DEATH

Diseases of the Circulatory System including Heart										
Disease and Cerebral Haemorrhage					...	...	...	...	...	153
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Respiratory Diseases:					Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	31	} 50
					Bronchitis	...	...	...	16	
					Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	3	
Tuberculosis (all forms)					...	...	...	...	...	32
Deaths from all causes					...	...	...	...	...	408

INFANTILE MORTALITY AND BIRTH RATE

Deaths of Children under 1 year of age per 1000 births, and births per 1000 persons living:—

	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934
Infant Mortality	55.6	51.9	42.8	43.2	65.5	53.9	35.4	35.6	35.3	50.0
Birth Rate	16.8	18.4	16.6	15.2	15.5	15.1	14.0	15.4	12.8	14.6

CHILD MORTALITY

Number of deaths of children aged 1 to 5 years during 1934 ... 14

NEO NATAL MORTALITY

Total Deaths, 9. Death rate of children under 1 month of age per 1000 births, 20.4

UNEMPLOYMENT

I am indebted to A. J. Cushing, Esq., Manager of the Ministry of Labour Exchange, Chatham and F. W. Gray, Esq., Manager of the Juvenile Employment Agency, Elm House, Chatham for the following information which shews to some extent amount of unemployment in the area during the past 5 years.

(a) Number of persons (estimated for Rochester) registered as unemployed at the Ministry of Labour Exchange, Chatham, in March of each year:

1930	1931	1932	1933	1934
900	1140	1375	1450	1250

(b) Average monthly figures of Unemployed Juveniles between the ages of 14 to 18 years. (Estimated for Rochester.)

1930	1931	1932	1933	1934
33	37	44	42	33

DISTRIBUTION AND DENSITY OF POPULATION (Census 1931)

	Acreage	Population	Persons per acre	Structurally separate dwellings occupied
Rochester City	2936	31196	10.6	7415
Windsbury Ward	236	6835	29.0	1684
Margaret's Ward	1426	4510	3.2	1058
Nicholas Ward	125	1767	14.1	418
Peter's Ward	805	7241	9.0	1674
Wood Ward	266	5760	21.7	1321
Wyke Town Ward	78	5080	65.1	1260

TABLE A.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1934 and Five Previous Years
Name of District—ROCHESTER

YEAR	Popula- tion estimated to middle of each year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.		Number	Rate	of Non- Residents Registered in the District	Residents not Registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 nett. Births.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Number	Rate
1929	31400	469	488	15.5	609	19.3	257	59	32	65.5	411	13.0
1930	{ 31900* 31400†	456	482	15.1	478	15.2	213	66	26	53.9	331	10.5
1931	30200	419	423	14.0	520	17.2	281	150	15	35.4	389	12.8
1932	30980	453	477	15.4	487	15.7	228	95	17	35.6	354	11.4
1933	30700	370	396	12.8	509	16.5	212	86	14	35.3	383	12.4
1934	32807	441	480	14.6	513	15.6	154	133	24	50.0	408	12.4

* For Birth Rate † For Death Rate.

OCCUPATIONS OF INHABITANTS (Census 1931)

	Males	Females	Total
1. Population at all ages	15526	15667	31193
2. Population age 14 years and over	12002	12216	24218
3. Population occupied 14 years and over	10460	3161	13621
(a) Operatives in work	8172	2623	10795
(b) Out of work (all classes)	1266	229	1495
4. Unoccupied and Retired	1542	9055	10597

CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF MALES

etal Workers	1581	Builders and Bricklayers	421
ransport Workers	1500	Professional Occupations	292
ommerce and Finance	1139	Agriculture	254
orkers in wood and furniture	697	Painters and Decorators	229
erks, Draughtsmen and Typists	584	Electric apparatus makers	164
ublic Activities and Defence	491	Undefined workers (unskilled and general labourers)	2004

DISTRIBUTION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN WARDS

	Births	Deaths
Rochester City M.B. ...	480	408
Frindsbury Ward ...	51	59
St. Margaret's Ward ...	43	65
St. Nicholas Ward ...	22	14
St. Peter's Ward ...	114	67
Strood Ward ...	176	150
Troy Town Ward ...	74	53

COMMENTS ON STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

POPULATION

On April 1st, 1934, 813 acres situated on the north side of the River Medway are added to the City Area. The influx of new industries and increased building activity will tend to increase the population in spite of the low birth rate. There was an increase in the number of births in 1934, the figure being 480 as compared with 366 births in 1933, the birth rate in 1934 being 14.6 and in 1933 12.8 per 1000 living births.

The population is engaged predominantly in industry, the chief forms of employment being shown on this page. The Royal Dockyard at Chatham by reason of its proximity, absorbs a proportion of the employable population of Rochester. The River Medway trade, cement manufacture, agriculture, engineering and aeroplane building form the main local industries. The cathedral and historical and Dickensian associations of the City attract many visitors.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

There are 17 doctors resident in the area who are engaged in civilian practice.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES

CHEMICAL. So far as regards food and drugs, analyses are carried out by the City Analyst, and the results for the year appear on page 20.

BACTERIOLOGICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL. The work under this heading is carried out at the County Laboratory at Maidstone. In addition, a quarterly chemical and bacteriological analysis of the Strood water is made by Dr. Spitta at St. George's Hospital London.

The various results of the bacteriological examinations and chemical analyses appear in other parts of the report.

3. AMBULANCE FACILITIES

A motor Ambulance is kept at St. William's Hospital for the removal of cases of Infectious Disease from Rochester and Chatham, and a motor ambulance for non-infectious and accident cases is maintained by St. John's Ambulance Association, and this is available at all times. A further Motor Ambulance is kept by the Corporation for street accidents.

4. NURSING IN THE HOME

No nurses are directly employed by the local Authority for the nursing of patients at home.

The Trustees of Watts' Charity employ 10 whole-time nurses, four of whom are state registered. In addition, three other nurses are occasionally employed. Watts' Charity thus provides a very effective home nursing service for the area and co-operates very generously with the Health Department. Maternity work is also carried out by this body.

As a result of the co-operation between the Charity and the Local Authority the Trustees have agreed to provide Home Helps in Maternity cases and Home Nursing for cases of Puerperal Pyrexia, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Pneumonia and Erysipelas.

The number of patients receiving nursing attention at home through Watts' Charity in 1934 was 466.

5. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

During the year a Child Welfare Clinic has been established at Strood House, Rochester.

	Situation	Accommodation	By Whom Provided
School Clinic	Strood House, The Common, Rochester.	Sufficient	Rochester Education Committee.
Child Welfare Clinic	do.	do.	Rochester Corporation
Treatment Centre for Venereal Diseases	36 New Road, Rochester.	do.	Kent County Council
Centre for Distribution of Dried Milk, etc.,	The New Corn Exchange, Rochester.	do.	Rochester Corporation

6. HOSPITALS (See Table B. pages 10 and 11)

7. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

(a) **MIDWIVES.** There are 6 midwives living and practising in the area.

(b) **HEALTH VISITORS.** Two Health Visitors are employed and details of their work are shown on pages 34-37.

(c) **INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.** Cases of mental illness are admitted to St. Bartholomew's Hospital or to the Medway Hospital, in the former case by means of subscription letters and in the latter under the Poor Law Acts. There are no arrangements for treatment in Convalescent Homes.

(D) PROVISION FOR MATERNITY CASES.

(1) In necessitous cases the midwives' fees are subsidised or paid in full by the Council

Watts' Charity also provide midwives to attend necessitous cases. In the year under report they provided midwives for 13 maternity cases, and in 41 cases of illness of children, nursing assistance was given.

(2) Home Helps are provided where necessary and when desired. The scheme began in the month of June. The service is provided by the staff of Watts' Charity which consists of 1 Superintendent Nurse, 2 Resident Nurses, 3 Assistant Nurses and 1 Emergency Nurse for the south side of the District, and 1 Head District Nurse and 3 Assistant Nurses for the North side.

(3) A scheme is now in operation which provides Hospital Beds at Canada House, Gillingham, for complicated and normal cases, Consultant Medical Services in difficult cases, laboratory facilities, sterilised maternity outfits and extra nourishment. Accommodation for infective conditions is available at the Medway Hospital. The scheme is linked up with other medical services in the area such as Tuberculosis and V.D. Clinics. Suitable ante-natal and post-natal cases can also be admitted to Canada House, Gillingham.

(4) INFANT LIFE PROTECTION. See page 35.

(5) ORTHOPÆDIC TREATMENT. There is an Orthopædic Department at St. Bartholomew's Hospital to which children may be sent with subscribers' letters.

(6) MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES REGISTRATION ACT, 1927. There were two Homes registered at the beginning of the year, but one has since closed voluntarily. They were visited from time to time by the Medical Officer of Health and the Health Visitors.

Under Section 6 of the Act exemption has been granted to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER

The Water supply has been dealt with fully in previous reports and remains satisfactory.

There has been no change in the methods and numbers of bacteriological examinations, and the findings are similar to those reported in the past few years.

Rainfall for the past 8 years (recorded at Strood Water Works).

	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934
Total Depth (inches)	31.84	27.29	21.03	26.38	22.01	18.68	18.60	19.5

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

SEWERAGE. For particulars of the Rochester and Chatham Joint Sewerage Scheme see Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1928. Page 10.

Gillingham M.B. became a constituent authority of the Joint Sewerage Board on 1st October, 1934. The treatment of the sewage before discharge into the River Medway is, as formerly, by Tank Settlement only.

Six new sewer extensions have been laid in Rochester during the year.

DRAINAGE. Connection of house drains to the new sewerage scheme still continues. This scheme began in 1928 and the progress is shown in the following table :—

Number of houses connected to sewers at the end of each year :

1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934
1609	2628	4107	4955	5790	7188

Table B. Public Hospitals in and adjoining the City of Rochester

Name and Situation.	Number of Beds.	Classification of Beds.	Management.	Purpose.	Medical Staff	Nursing Staff	Area of Site	Area Served	Remarks
Medway Hospital, Magpie Hall Road, Chatham.	467 Hospital 'House' 237	Acute Medical and Surgical 86 Male 62 Female 62 Children 35 Tuberculosis .. 26 Male 14 Female 12 Isolation .. 8 Male 4 Female 4 Maternity .. 12 Beds 6 Cots 6 Chronic Sick .. 124 Male 42 Female 82 Mental .. 114 Male 53 Female 61	Public Assistance Committee Kent C.C.	For all general diseases, Tuberculosis, Maternity, Sick Children and Lunatics.	Medical Officer 1 Resident Assist. Medical " 2 do. Consult. Physic. 1 non-Resident " Surgeon 1 do. Dental " 1 do	Supt. Nurse 1 Assist. Supt. " 1 Sisters " 11 Staff Nurses 7 Probation Nurses 48 Assist. Nurses 4	About 10 acres	Chatham, Gillingham and part of the City of Rochester	Not an appropriated hospital, but a mixed institution administered under the Poor Law Acts. There is room for the erection of two additional blocks of 100 beds each.
R.N. and Marine Maternity Nursing Home, (Canada House), Barnsole Road, Gillingham.	24	Maternity Wards 21 Private Wards 3	Officers and Men, of R.N. and Royal Marines and Ladies' Committee	Primarily for the wives of service members of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines : Rochester patients admitted by agreement, under M. & C. W. Scheme.	Hon. Medical Officer 1 Medical Practitioners engaged by patient or at request of Matron	Matron 1 Sisters 2 Nurses 9	1 acre	Gillingham, Rochester, Chatham, Sittingbourne and localities.	Establishment of an Antenatal Clinic is under consideration Consultants provided by Rochester Council for Rochester Patients
St. Williams' Hospital, St. Williams' Way Rochester,	85 on Ministry's Standard 144 sq. ft. per bed	Block 1 2-8 bed wards Block 2 2-12 do. Block 3 2-6 do. Block 4 2-2 do. Block 5 2-2 do. Block 6 2-3 do. Block 7 8 cubicles (including operating Theatre).	The Rochester, Chatham Joint Hospital Board	Isolation and Treatment of Infectious Diseases	Medical Officer 1 Non-resident	Matron 1 Sisters 2 Staff Nurses 3 Probation Nurses 11	1 6 acres	Rochester and Chatham	Extension possible to 120 beds, on present site
								Approximate Population 162,000	Approximate Population 87,000

Name and Situation	Number of Beds	Classification of Beds	Management	Purpose	Medical Staff	Nursing Staff	Average of Site	Area Served	Remarks
Small Pox Hospital, City Way, Rochester	26	Small Pox beds only	The Rochester and Chatham Joint Hospital Board	Isolation and Treatment of Small Pox.	As and when required	As and when required	3 acres	Rochester & Chatham Approximate Population 81,000	Temporary Buildings Cases of Small Pox may be admitted to Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford, by arrangement with London C.C.
St. Bartholomews' Hospital, New Road, Rochester	126	Medical .. Orthopaedic .. Surgical .. Ophthalmic ..	37 Voluntary 4 Committee of 34 77 Trustees	General Medical Surgical and complicated maternity cases Clinics for children, Ear, Nose, and Throat, Out-patients, Orthopaedic, Electric Therapeutic, Surgical Casualty House Surgeon House Physician Ophthalmic Cases, Pathological & X-ray Depts.	Hon. Surgeons .. Assist. Hon. Surgeons 3 Hon. Physicians 3 Assist. Hon. Physicians 3 Hon. Ophthalmic Surgeon 1 Hon. Anaesthetists 5 Hon. Pathologist 1 Hon. Radiologist 1 Hon. Dentist 1 Resident Surgical Officer 1 Casualty House Surgeon 1 House Physician ..	3 Matron 3 Assist. 3 Matron 10 Sisters 37 Nurses 1 Sister Tutor	1 3 acres	Rochester, Chatham, Gillingham, Sittingbourne Sheerness & district Approximate Population 200,000	Extension scheme in progress which includes 2 new wards to contain 50 beds. School of Massage attached to Orthopaedic Dept.
Strood P.A.C. Institution Gun Lane Strood	Hospital 126 House 191	Maternity .. Tuberculosis .. Others .. 114	4 Public Assistance Committee, Kent C.C.	Treatment of Chronic Sick and Tuberculous patients.	Medical Officer 1 non-resident, part time	Head Nurse 1 Assistant Nurses 8	4.8 acres	Strood & Hoo Rural District Northfleet Urban Approximate Population 37,000	A 'mixed' unappropriated institution administered under the Poor Law Acts

There are no streams in the District.

4. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

For details see Annual Reports for 1933 and previous years.

The actual storage of domestic refuse has been the subject of adverse comment in the annual reports of Rochester for many years, and it is hoped that the action taken by the Council towards the end of 1934 will result in a complete remedy of the lack of sanitary dustbins in the City.

6. SCHOOLS

D. HOUSING

Erected by	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	Total
Local Authority	50	36	120	64	53	50	30	92	82	24	501
Private Enterprise	29	30	116	21	41	21	82	115	221	437	708
								Total	...		

1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
4	1	0	6	15	2	13	15	15	48	10

Twenty four houses were erected and occupied under the Housing Act, 1930 and a commencement was made with the erection of an additional 24 houses. progress is being made in the 5 years programme of slum-clearance and re-housing there is every indication that the programme will be completed within the scheduled period which expires in 1938.

Further details and particulars of Housing Act Inspections, insanitary housing conditions and other housing statistics are shown in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector which appears on page 15.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	703
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	2493
(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	94
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	390
(b)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	52
(d)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	602

NOTE (1).—Includes houses dealt with for defective drainage and sanitary fittings only.

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:—

	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local Authority or their officers	601
--	--	-----

NOTE.—Includes houses dealt with for defective drainage and sanitary fittings only.

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

1.	Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	55
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By Owners	20
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0
3.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	2
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By Owners	2
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0
7.	Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930	
(1)	No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	34
(2)	No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	48
10.	Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

OVERCROWDING

The difficulties in remedying the evils of overcrowding are numerous and general throughout the country. Large families, particularly young families, result in great wear and tear on property and are not usually preferred as tenants. Consequently most large working class families can only obtain satisfactory accommodation through the local authority. Furthermore, a low rental is essential, and this is only possible in a subsidised house.

Whenever possible the Council have endeavoured to eradicate this danger to life and health, but it would be idle to imagine that such measures, useful as they are, have been adequate to the needs. The extent of overcrowding in Rochester is relatively small when compared with certain other cities and towns in the country, but the harm from overcrowding whether extensive or otherwise, is so serious as to warrant immediate and persistent action. Whether the problem be great or small its solution is universal and depends on the erection by the Local Authority of **houses at low rents**, and it is hoped that the Housing Bill at present before Parliament will assist greatly in the furtherance of this object.

The Census figures give an approximate indication of overcrowding and the following figures for the City of Rochester are extracted from the 1931 Census.

1931.	Private Families of 3 or more persons living in 1 roomed house	...
	Private Families of 4 or more persons living in 2 roomed house	...
	Private Families of 6 or more persons living in 3 roomed house	...
	Private Families of 8 or more persons living in 4 roomed house	...
	Private Families of 10 or more persons living in 5 roomed house	...

Private Families in City of Rochester classified by Size of Family, Rooms Occupied and Density of Occupation, (Census 1931)

Number of Persons in Family	Number of Private Families occupying the following number of Rooms						Total Private Families
	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more	
1	112	37	67	66	67	78	427
2	140	82	174	291	506	525	1718
3	82	63	176	388	627	628	1964
4	27	23	121	334	550	571	1626
5	15	5	59	212	401	360	1052
6 and over	8	8	62	246	421	393	1138
Total Private Families	384	218	659	1537	2572	2555	7925

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

I beg to submit my 27th Annual Report on the various branches of work in connection with the sanitary inspection of the City.

HOUSING ACT INSPECTIONS

Formal Inspections of the following 94 houses were made under the Housing Acts 1925 and 1930:—

Alma Place	...	9	Frindsbury Road	...	10
Barton Road	...	1	Grange Road	...	2
Brompton Lane	...	1	Gun Lane	...	2
Burritt Street	...	4	Henry Street	...	1
Cazeneuve Street	...	1	Little's Terrace	...	4
Common, The	...	12	Montfort Road	...	1
Corporation Street	...	2	Orange Square	...	6
Cossack Street	...	2	Orchard, The	...	16
Delce Road	...	1	Princes Street	...	1
Doggett Square	...	1	Station Road	...	2
Eastgate Terrace	...	1	Star Hill	...	2
Edward Street	...	2	Thomas Street	..	2
Free School Lane	...	1	Wickham Street	...	1
Friary Place	...	4	Wykeham Street	...	2

Including 11 houses inspected in 1933, Demolition Orders were made during the last year with respect to 34 houses as follows:—Nos. 85 to 97 and Nos. 44 to 52 The Common, Nos. 22 and 24 Edward Street, Nos. 8 and 8a Five Bells Lane, Nos. 1 to 6 Orange Square, No. 2 Princes Street, Nos. 2 to 10 Ship Lane, and Nos. 11 and 13 Star Hill.

At the end of the year Demolition Order procedure had also been commenced respecting Nos. 51 and 53, Corporation Street.

Clearance Area procedure was decided upon for dealing with the 26 houses in Frindsbury Road and The Orchard.

Formal undertaking by the owners to close No. 1 Ship Lane was accepted by the Council, as demolition would injuriously affect the stability of an adjoining building.

A Closing Order under Section 20, Housing Act, 1930, was made respecting part of No. 4 Free School Lane, and was given effect.

In two cases, No. 17 Barton Road and No. 18 Brompton Lane, the premises were reported under Section 19, Housing Act, 1930, but the owners made offers to condition the houses that were accepted, and the work was duly carried out.

48 houses under Demolition Orders were demolished during the year, viz:—Nos. 25, 133, 133a, 135, 135a and 137 Borstal Street, Nos. 44 to 52 The Common, Nos. 41, 41a, 41b and 41c Corporation Street, Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Ruby Cottages, Corporation Street, No. 10 Dunnings Lane, Nos. 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 15a, 32 and 34 Five Bells Lane, Nos. 3 and 4, Kettles Court and Nos. 116 and 118 King Street, Nos. 16 and 18 North Street, Nos. 1 to 6 Orange Square and Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 7a, 9, 11 and 13 Star Hill. This constituted the largest number of houses demolished in any one year under the Housing Act, 1930, and the clearance of the houses was materially assisted by the Council's re-housing provision for 24 of the families displaced.

At the end of the year 32 other Houses under Demolition Orders were awaiting demolition, viz :—Nos. 1 to 3 Commodore Wharf, Nos. 85 to 97 The Common, Nos. 22 and 24 Edward Street, Nos. 2, 4, 6, 6a, 8 and 8a Five Bells Lane, No. 114 King Street, Nos. 22 and 24 North Street, No. 2 Princes Street, Nos. 2 to 10 Ship Lane, and Tollgate Cottage, Cuxton Road. Only 7 were in occupation and these were cases of 1 or 2 persons per house, to whom new Council houses could not be offered for various reasons.

COMPLAINTS

There was a marked increase in the number of complaints made by householders and others. 417 were received and investigated, and in each case appropriate action was taken.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

During the past year it was necessary to deal with 758 premises for insanitary conditions or other defects remediable under public health law. In the same period 4659 sanitary defects or other unsatisfactory conditions were remedied following action by this Department, and details of these are given in the tabulated statement which follows :—

SUMMARY OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

DRAINAGE AND SANITARY FITTINGS

Houses re-drained	...	...	142
Houses partly re-drained	...	...	9
Defective drains repaired	...	...	12
Drains unstopped and cleansed	...	...	155
New ventilated soilpipes fixed	...	...	17
New ventshafts fixed	...	...	63
Privies abolished and replaced by W.C's.	...	...	1
Insufficient W.C. accommodation	...	...	12
New W.C. apartments built	...	...	22
W.C's. provided with pans and traps	...	...	163
Flushing apparatus & water supply provided to W.C's.	...	...	46
W.C. fittings repaired and cleansed	...	...	69
New sinks fixed	...	...	47
Trapped wastepipes fixed	...	...	144
New lavatory basins and baths fixed	...	...	13
Dangerous cesspools filled in	...	...	18
New urinals constructed or improved	...	...	5
Defective inspection chambers and covers	...	...	16
Water tests applied	...	...	408
Smoke Tests applied	...	...	119

MISCELLANEOUS

No. of houses demolished	...	...	48
No. of houses closed	...	...	1
Parts of houses closed	...	...	1
Dangerous walls re-constructed and underpinned	...	...	17
Water supply laid on in houses	...	...	7
Roofs repaired	...	...	107

MISCELLANEOUS (continued)

Defective brickwork and pointing of			
brickwork repaired	...	185	
Guttering or downpipes provided or repaired		78	
Damp walls remedied	...	136	
Yards repaved	...	33	
Yard paving repaired	...	40	
New wash-houses built	...	6	
Concrete floors provided to cellars	...	16	
Defective floors repaired	...	126	
Defective wall and ceiling plaster repaired		349	
Dirty walls cleansed	...	519	
Dirty ceilings cleansed	...	437	
Defective stoves repaired or renewed	...	101	
Defective windows repaired	...	105	
Lighting and Ventilation of rooms improved		61	
Houses provided with through ventilation		2	
Sub-floor ventilation provided or improved		10	
Handrails provided to staircases	...	57	
Ventilated food stores provided or improved		61	
Washing coppers provided or repaired	...	31	
Sanitary dustbins provided	...	58	
Dirty houses cleansed (tenants' neglect)	...	7	
Instances of overcrowding abated	...	13	
Number of rooms disinfested	...	374	
Dirty caravans cleansed	...	3	
Nuisances from animals abated	...	2	
Nuisances from manure and refuse abated		32	
Miscellaneous defects remedied	...	682	
Total			4659

VERMINOUS DWELLINGS

374 rooms, in 147 houses were subjected to deinfestation treatment, as compared with 255 rooms and 82 houses in 1933. Of the houses treated for the destruction of bugs, 52 were Council houses and 95 were private property. The most noticeable increase was in the number of verminous Council houses—from 19 to 52—but this, to some extent, reflects the most careful examination made of each house as it was vacated. If there is the slightest sign of vermin, the whole house is thoroughly fumigated. As regards privately owned houses, whenever general inspections are made, note is always taken of any infestation with vermin, and notice is served for deinfestation when necessary.

The problem of effective destruction of bugs and eggs in infested houses is one which is giving concern to all public health authorities. Up to August of the past year good results were achieved in Rochester by spraying with insecticide followed immediately by intensive sulphur dioxide fumigation. It was known that this did not affect the eggs, and consequently the fumigation was repeated after a lapse of three weeks in order to destroy the insects which might have hatched out. Hydrogen cyanide fumigation has been proved to destroy both bugs and eggs, and the gas has the further advantage of having great penetrating power. It can only be used by

experts as it is highly dangerous to all life. The Council agreed to its use for Council houses, and for the treatment of all furniture etc., from condemned dwellings removed to new Council houses. The latter procedure has everything to commend it, as not only does it guarantee Council houses against direct infestation from the contents of old property, but it relieves the tenants' furniture and bedding of all insect pests which, to say the least, made their previous conditions of living uncomfortable. The potential danger associated with the use of Hydrogen Cyanide is a matter receiving the very closest consideration of the Medical Officer of Health and myself, and special investigations are being conducted at the time of writing this Report.

CESSPOOL AND PRIVY EMPTYING

3374 loads of sewage were pumped from cesspools during the year, as compared with 3463 loads in 1933. A considerable amount of this work was the final clearing out of cesspools which were being put into permanent disuse, owing to premises being connected to the sewer; the remainder was chiefly from cesspools beyond reach of the sewerage system.

389 loads of sewage sludge were removed from cesspools by the night gang, compared with 577 loads the previous year. This section of work now only gives irregular employment to the night-soil men.

FOOD INSPECTION

The total number of visits made by the Sanitary Inspectors for the purpose of inspection of food and food premises was 1597.

MILK SUPPLY

There are 7 Registered Cowsheds, and 17 retail dairies in the City. 10 dairymen with premises outside the City are registered as milk purveyors within the boundaries. There are also 71 shopkeepers registered to sell milk in sealed bottles only, and with one or two exceptions they sell sterilised milk only. Four wholesalers outside the City area producing sterilised milk are registered as supplying retailers inside the City, and one such company also retails.

One new cowshed was registered during the year, and this was a new building constructed on model lines and fitted with up-to-date equipment. Negotiations were also commenced with the owner for the complete remodelling of the cowsheds at another farm, and there is every prospect that all the recommended alterations and improvements will soon be effected.

Inspections of cowsheds and dairies revealed that due regard was being given to the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order, excepting in the case of one cowkeeper's premises where the tenant had to be warned that much greater care was necessary both in production and in maintenance of cleanliness of utensils.

Although there is only one licenced pasteurising establishment in the City, few dairies are equipped with pasteurising plant and these deal with the greater bulk of the milk sold in the City. Two of the largest dairies with pasteurising plants of the holder type provide the milk supplied to children in the Schools. The total number of bottles of milk supplied daily from these establishments to the Schools in the City at the end of the year was 2910.

12 samples of Certified Milk were taken for bacteriological examination, and were reported by the County Bacteriologist to be up to the standard laid down by the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.

Two samples were also taken from other cowkeepers and gave negative results for the presence of Tubercle bacilli.

84 sediment tests were made to detect unclean milk sent in by producers to the premises, and in some instances it was necessary to request that greater cleanliness should be exercised in production.

MEAT INSPECTION

There are now only 4 slaughter houses left in the city,—two Registered and two Licenced. One old Registered Slaughter house was voluntarily closed by the owner following representations as to its condition. This was a matter for great satisfaction as the said premises were in the heart of the City.

Slaughtering is now much more concentrated than it was years ago, but as 9025 animals were slaughtered and inspected during the year it is obvious that this work makes continuous heavy demands on Inspectors' time, including evenings and Sundays. The number of carcasses etc., inspected shows an increase of 1431 over the figures for 1933.

The food condemned is listed below, and in all cases voluntary surrenders were secured.

3 carcasses, etc., of cows	(Tuberculosis)
Forequarters of steer	do.
2 carcasses etc., of calves	do.
8 carcasses etc., of pigs	(25 Tuberculosis, 1 Pleurisy and Peritonitis, 1 Dropsy 1 Unsound).
1 carcasses etc., of sheep and lambs.	(44 Dropsy and Emaciation, 1 Anaemia, 1 Fevered, 2 Jaundice and Emaciation, 1 Bruising, 1 Ill-bleeding 1 Putrefaction).
5 Ox heads and tongues	(12 Tuberculosis 3 Actinomycosis)
0 Ox livers	(44 Flukes, 3 Abscesses, 2 Tuberculosis, 1 Cavernous Angioma)
1 Calf's head and tongue	Tuberculosis
1 Calf's liver	do.
0 Pigs' heads and tongues	do.
8 Pigs' livers	(88 Cirrhosis, 6 Fatty Infiltration 2 Tuberculosis 1 Necrosis, 1 Cysts).
4 Pigs' Kidneys	Cysts
4 Sheep and Lambs Livers	(136 Flukes, 7 Cirrhosis 2 Abscesses, 59 Other parasites)
9½ lbs. Imported Beef	Putrefaction
2 lbs. Beef Fat	Unsound
2 Forequarters of mutton	Unsound

CONDEMNED FOOD—Continued.

1 Leg of mutton	Bruising
2 Forequarters of pork	Pleurisy
14 Tinned hams	Unsound
24 Rabbits	Unsound
5 Rabbits' livers	Cysts
100 Tins of skimmed milk	Unsound
393 lbs. Chestnuts	Unsound

BAKEHOUSES

The number of bakehouses in the city is 18, as in 1933, but one old bakehouse was closed as a result of action taken, and one disused bakehouse was put in operation again after it had been completely renovated under direction of the Department. With the exception just mentioned, the bakehouses were kept in satisfactory condition although some of the older ones leave something to be desired in the point of complete suitability.

FRIED FISH SHOPS

Fish frying is a declared Offensive Trade in the city, and there are now 10 premises registered, one new one being added during the year. With one exception they are fitted with modern cooking ranges, most of them with condensers, and systematic inspections revealed no cause for serious complaint.

OTHER FOOD PREMISES

Various other premises in the city retailing and preparing food were kept under supervision. In one case proceedings were taken against a wholesaler who had supplied a retailer with unsound milk. He was fined £5 and £2-6-0 costs. In another instance a fruiterer was formally cautioned for exposing unsound chestnuts for sale.

FOOD ADULTERATION, ETC.

65 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst under the Food and Drugs Act, and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, and the following summarises his reports.

Article	Number	Genuine	Adulterated
Milk	36	36	0
Coffee	5	5	0
Vinegar	5	4	1
Butter	5	5	0
Lard	5	5	0
Sausage	4	4	0
Crear.	4	4	0
Pears	1	1	0

The vinegar returned as adulterated proved to be " Spirit Vinegar " although it was sold as Malt Vinegar, and the retailer was cautioned.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

There are 109 premises in the City registered under the Factory and Workshops Act,—92 workshops, and 17 homework premises. All were inspected, and in some cases request had to be made for repairs or improvements in condition of premises. Two notices were received from H.M. Inspector respecting sanitary accommodation at factories, and the necessary action was taken.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There is only one on the Register, and this has been kept in accordance with the byelaws, but it was found necessary during the summer to require the bedrooms to be fumigated for the destruction of bugs.

DISINFECTION

228 rooms were fumigated under Sanitary Inspectors' supervision after cases of Infectious Disease, including 31 after removal or deaths of cases of Tuberculosis.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Inspections:—

Primary inspections	...	...	740
House to house inspections	...	...	94
Caravans inspected	...	...	104
Re-inspections	...	...	2234
Drainage surveys and visits to work in progress			2321
Visits to factories and workshops	...		188
„ bakehouses	...	...	41
„ slaughter houses	...	...	1201
„ other premises for food inspection			64
„ cowsheds and dairies	...		179
„ offensive trades	...	...	33
„ stables and mews	...	...	74
Visits for food sampling and testing	...		79
„ to cases of infectious disease	...		331
„ to common lodging houses	...		8
„ for water sampling	...	...	10
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	1189
Total			8890

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. TOPPING,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE C.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	26	4	
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	162	14	
Workplaces (other than Outworkers premises)	-	-	
Total ...	188	18	

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces				
Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
(1)				
Want of cleanliness ...	9	9		
Want of ventilation ...				
Overcrowding ...				
Want of drainage of floors ...	6	6		
Other nuisances ...	5	3		
Sanitary accommodation	3	2		
{insufficient unsuitable or defective not separate for sexes				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ...				
Other offences ...				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921)				
Total ...	23	† 20		

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifications

	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	Average annual number from 1915 to 1924
Small Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	109	129	48	81	105	85	76	53	74	25	47.7
Diphtheria	86	50	15	32	44	62	137	41	30	11	54.7
Enteric Fever	4	0	4	1	0	0	1	4	6	0	5.3
Enterperal Fever	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	2	.7
Enterperal Pyrexia	2	0	3	0	3	1	3	4	2	0	0
Pneumonia	35	22	16	12	9	19	7	29	20	25	13.1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	2	1.3
Polioccephalitis	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	4	1	0	1	0	0	3	4	3	5.1
Erysipelas	11	7	7	4	8	12	9	16	7	10	11.6

Deaths

	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	Average annual number from 1915 to 1924
Small Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	.5
Diphtheria	1	3	1	1	1	4	7	0	2	1	5.7
Enteric Fever	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	.4
Enterperal Fever	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	.4
Pneumonia	19	20	18	17	14	29	21	15	14	20	22.4
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	1	0	2	.3
Polioccephalitis	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.3

TABLE D.1. NOTIFIABLE CASES DURING THE YEAR 1934

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified												Total Cases Notified in each Locality of the District.		Total Number of Cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths	
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.															
		Under 1 Year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	South	North		
Small-pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever.....	109	0	2	8	7	45	20	6	10	3	0	0	0	44	65	102	1
Diphtheria.....	86	0	0	1	3	7	30	25	8	1	3	0	0	34	52	60	1
Pneumonia.....	35	0	1	0	1	7	0	4	6	1	10	4	30	5	0	0	31 (24 not notified)
Erysipelas	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	3	1	8	3	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2 (not notified)
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	4	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	0	0
Other Diseases Notifiable locally.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

6 cases of Diphtheria and 2 cases of Scarlet Fever which were wrongly diagnosed are included in the above table. 4 cases of Scarlet Fever and 1 case of Poliomyelitis occurred in boys on the T.S. "Arcthusa" and are not included in the above table. 2 cases of Scarlet Fever and 1 case of Poliomyelitis occurred in boys on the T.S. "Arcthusa" and are not included in the above table. 6 Diphtheria cases occurred in boys on the T.S. "Arcthusa" and are not included in the above table.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DIVIDED INTO WARDS, 1934

	Troy Town Ward	Saint Peter's Ward	Saint Margaret's Ward	Saint Nicholas Ward	Strood Ward	Frindsbury Ward	Totals
Scarlet Fever	7	24	10	3	52	13	109
Diphtheria	11	15	4	4	48	4	86
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Erysipelas	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Septicæmia	1	5	2	0	2	1	11
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	0	1	1	0	4
Pneumonia	5	8	14	3	3	2	35
Enteric Fever	0	1	0	0	3	0	4
Phthisis	2	6	4	1	7	5	25
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	2	1	0	6	0	10
Totals	28	62	36	12	124	26	288

This Table includes 6 cases of Diphtheria and 2 cases of Scarlet Fever which were wrongly diagnosed. It also includes 6 "carriers" who were formally notified by medical practitioners. In addition to the 109 cases of Scarlet Fever, 4 cases of that disease were removed from T.S. "Arethusa" to St. William's Hospital.

BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK

The following is a tabulated statement of bacteriological work. All specimens forwarded to the County Laboratory at Maidstone.

	Positive	Negative	Total
Diphtheria Bacilli	57	417	474
Tubercle Bacilli	32	140	172
Haemolytic Streptococci	1	4	5
Typhoid Agglutination Tests	0	3	3
Ringworm	4	2	6
Totals	94	566	660

Observations on Infectious Diseases

SMALL-POX

No case of small-pox has occurred in the district since 1903. The existing arrangement for the admission of cases of small-pox to Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford, would appear to be adequate. Should the unlikely necessity arise, further accommodation is available at St. William's Small-pox Hospital, Rochester (a semi-permanent building).

SCARLET FEVER

This disease remains comparatively mild in character, although several toxic cases have been noted during the year. In such cases serum treatment is used and appears to be beneficial.

Immunization against Scarlet Fever is not generally practised but is utilized in certain hospitals and institutions in the district. The Dick test and Schultz Charton reaction are in use for Diagnostic purposes.

Ninety three per cent of the notified cases were admitted to hospital where the average duration of treatment was 35.7 days.

DIPHTHERIA

Over 50 per cent of the cases were notified in November and December. Bacteriological examination of the throats of school children showed that there was a high "carrier" rate in certain elementary schools where Diphtheria was prevalent. All "carriers" were excluded from school until free from Diphtheria Bacilli and then were referred to their medical attendants for prophylactic treatment.

The type of infection was not more severe than is usual in the early period of such an outbreak. The mortality rate was 1.1 per cent, which is low.

In the majority of cases prompt anti-toxin treatment was administered, but in a few instances delay has occurred in obtaining medical advice.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin is supplied free of charge to necessitous cases and is available day and night at the Police Headquarters, Guildhall, Rochester. During 1934, 382,000 units of anti-toxin were supplied free at a cost to the Local Authority of £15.10.10.

Schick testing. Immunization has not been available except for the local hospital staffs. Arrangements are now being made to establish an immunization clinic in the City during 1935 and in addition facilities are to be provided for immunization through the local medical practitioners.

ENTERIC FEVER

Three of the four cases occurred in one house. The available evidence points to the conclusion that the infection was contracted in another area. All patients made a good recovery. The infecting organism was *Bacillus Typhosus*.

PNEUMONIA

This scourge caused more deaths than all the other notifiable diseases, excluding Tuberculosis. Thirty-one persons were cut off during 1934 from this one disease, whereas all the other infectious diseases notifiable and non-notifiable (excluding Tuberculosis) together resulted in 15 deaths. Education in the prevention of disease and additional facilities for treatment are necessary. The practice of general hygiene, exercise and recreation in the open air, the avoidance of undue fatigue, excess of all kinds, attention to the common "cold", the abolition of smoke, and at least in importance a well balanced dietary are some of the factors to which regard must be paid if this very fatal infectious disease is to be successfully combated.

Notifiable cases may be admitted to St. William's Hospital, Rochester, and Home Nursing is on occasion provided by the nursing staff of Watts' Charity.

INFLUENZA

The number of deaths occurring during an epidemic year such as the year 1918 when there were 108 deaths in Rochester from this cause shows the gravity of this infectious disease in its epidemic manifestations. In 1934 only three deaths were recorded and this mortality is indicative of the absence of any wide-spread viral infection.

To obtain information as to the prevalence of Influenza is difficult in epidemic periods because not only is the disease non-notifiable, but it is a term which is very readily applied to any catarrhal condition of the respiratory tract accompanied by a rise in temperature. Consequently a large number of persons assume that they have suffered and made a speedy recovery from an attack of "Flu" when in reality they have been victims of some other infection such as the common cold. This assumption is unfortunate as it often conveys the idea that an influenza epidemic

valent and gives the impression that Influenza is not a serious malady. The extreme prostration during the acute stages followed by depression, debility and inability to complications clearly differentiates an attack of Influenza from the minor parathyroid infections which are so frequently labelled under the name of the more serious condition of influenzal infection, but as long as the term Influenza is applied indiscriminately it will be almost impossible to obtain an accurate picture of the prevalence of the disease during non-epidemic periods.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

The table on page 32, shows the number of deaths which have occurred from these diseases in the past 10 years. Measles epidemics tend to recur about every 2nd year or a little less than 2 years. If the epidemics occur in winter a severe outbreak may be anticipated, as under such circumstances there is a large number of pulmonary complications.

Both diseases are more prevalent and more fatal in the pre-school age, Measles being particularly fatal to children under 2 years of age. It is therefore of the utmost importance that children should be strictly guarded against Measles and Whooping cough infection during the first two or three years of life.

Suitable cases may be admitted to St. William's Hospital, Rochester.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

Four cases were notified and all made good recoveries. Home nursing is provided at Watts' Charity and severe cases are admitted to the Ophthalmic Hospital, Maidstone by the Local Authority.

SCHOOL AND OTHER INTIMATIONS OF DISEASE

Weekly returns from the schools giving the numbers and causes of absences from each school are of particular value in dealing with the control of non-notifiable diseases, and are also a guide as to the amount of sickness in the area. When epidemics are prevalent, infected schools are visited by the medical staff and the children inspected with a view to excluding latent sources of infection in the scholars. In addition, the names of children who are absent on account of sickness are visited by the School Nurse and Health Visitors, and appropriate advice is given.

When a patient leaves hospital after treatment for infectious disease a report on illness and condition on discharge is forwarded to the patient's private practitioner, and also to the Health Visitors. By this means continuous supervision, medical and nursing, can be obtained in those patients suffering from any sequelae of infection.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS

All specimens are sent to the County Laboratory, Maidstone, and the extent of the work done is shown on page 25.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

These matters have been referred to in previous reports. For particulars of Hydrogen Cyanide fumigation see page 17.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919

	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930
Total number of rats destroyed	5546	6919	5743	5725	4529
Total number of poison baits laid	8331	9497	8517	9386	5639

INFECTIOUS HOSPITALS

The arrangements for the treatment of Small-pox are referred to on page 25.

General Infectious Diseases are admitted to St. William's Hospital, Rochester (Joint Board of Rochester and Chatham) where any type of infection is accepted. Further comments on the use of this hospital are included in this report on page 3.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum is admitted to the Ophthalmic Hospital, Maidstone.

Puerperal Pyrexia and Puerperal Fever are sent to Medway Hospital, Chatham (an unappropriated "transferred" Institution.)

The Institutional treatment of Tuberculosis is shown on page 31.

CANCER

Deaths 1925-1934

Year	Male	Female	Total	incidence per 1000 persons living
1925	19	27	46	1.4
1926	24	29	53	1.6
1927	27	25	52	1.6
1928	19	25	44	1.3
1929	22	22	44	1.3
1930	27	17	44	1.3
1931	21	25	46	1.4
1932	19	21	40	1.3
1933	29	25	54	1.7
1934	27	27	54	1.6

TREATMENT FACILITIES

Modern facilities are available at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester for the surgical treatment of Cancer. Radium treatment in the form of "Radon" is also provided. At the present time when extensive radium treatment is required, patients are referred to the Radium Institute, London, but the facilities for Radium and X-ray treatment of the disease are about to be increased at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester. Plant for deep X-ray Therapy is being installed and a supply of 250 milligrammes of Radium will soon be in use at this hospital.

Table E. Cancer Mortality according to Site and Age.

Localisation	5-15 yrs		15-25 yrs		25-45 yrs		45-65 yrs		65 yrs. and upwards	Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	
Buccal Cavity	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	4	9
Stomach, Liver, etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	2
Peritoneum, intestines & rectum	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	8	6	12
Female genital organs	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	5	-	-
Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Skin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Unclassified	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
Totals	-	1	-	-	-	2	14	18	11	25

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No action has been taken during the year under Sec. 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eye.

TUBERCULOSIS

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 (relating to persons suffering from Tuberculosis employed in the milk trade,) or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925 (relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.)

TUBERCULOSIS IN 1934
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1934
TABLE F.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1-5	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
5-10	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	1	1	2	—	—	1	—	—
15-20	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	—
20-25	1	1	1	—	1	2	—	—
25-35	4	2	1	—	5	3	—	—
35-45	3	—	—	—	5	2	—	—
45-55	3	1	—	—	5	—	—	—
55-65	4	1	—	1	3	1	—	—
65 & upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	17	8	8	2	20	*10	2	0

*Includes 2 cases of Miliary Tuberculosis.

The Notifications of deaths were divided as follows :

	SOUTH	NORTH	Totals
Respiratory Tuberculosis	14	15	29
Non-Respiratory do.	2	1	3
Totals ...	16	16	32

2 of the deaths (6.3 per cent) were non-notified Tuberculosis.

The average numbers of notifications and deaths from Respiratory and Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis for the preceding 5 years are as follows :

	Respiratory Tuberculosis		Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	
	Notifications	Deaths	Notifications	Deaths
Average for preceding 5 years	32.4	22.8	9	3.2
1934	25	30	10	2

172 specimens of sputum were submitted during the year to bacteriological examination, with 32 positive, and 140 negative results.

The following information has been courteously supplied by Dr. Roper, the County Tuberculosis Officer for this District :—

Particulars of patients from the Rochester District who were dealt with at the County Tuberculosis Dispensary during the year ended December 31st, 1934.

Number of New Cases	...	...	113
Total number of attendances	...	...	730
Number sent to Institutions	...	...	26

Diagnosis—New Patients	Excluding School Children	School Children (Age 5 to 14)
Respiratory Tuberculosis	19	0
Surgical do.	4	11
Other Diseases (including Tonsils & Adenoids)	8	2
Apparently Healthy	34	32
Under Observation 31-12-34	2	0

Institutions to which patients were sent during 1934:—

Lenham Sanatorium 5, Sevenoaks Hospital 2, King Edward VII, Midhurst 1, Weston Hall 2, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester 1, Medway Hospital,atham 7, St. Nicholas Hospital 1, Holy Cross, Ramsgate 1, Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate 2, Alexandra Hospital, Swanley 3 and Cranbrook Convalescent Home 1. Total 26.

TABLE G. REGISTER OF TUBERCULOSIS IN 1934

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Cases notified during the year 1934	17	8	8	2	35
Cases transferred from other districts during the year 1934	9	6	4	3	22
Cases removed to other districts during the year 1934	8	3	1	0	12
Cases recovered during the year 1934	1	1	1	5	8
Deaths during the year 1934	20	10	2	0	32
Cases on Register on 31st Dec., 1934	65	35	32	13	145

VENEREAL DISEASES

Sessions are held at the Venereal Diseases Clinic, 36 New Road, Rochester, Tuesdays from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 2.15 p.m., and Fridays from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., and new patients are seen at any time. The information is made known by means of posters and leaflets, and through the various other clinics, doctors and nurses.

The clinic is under the administration of the Kent County Council and conducted by Mr. Hamish Nicol, F.R.C.S. It serves a considerable area, and the following details refer only to patients from Rochester.

NEW PATIENTS.

	Male	Female	All Cases
Syphilis	10	9	19
Soft	4	0	4
Gonorrhoea	21	12	33
Non. Spec. V.D. & N.V.	12	4	16
Total	47	25	72

Total Attendances, 3499.

The number of new cases in the previous ten years beginning in 1924 was 52, 61, 32, 50, 103, 56, 55, 88 and 67.

Lectures arranged by the Kent County Council were given during the year co-operation with the British Social Hygiene Council, with the object of making dangers of untreated Venereal Disease more generally known.

Deaths from Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases

Disease	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925
Measles	3	0	2	2	0	8	0	0	9	1
Whooping Cough	2	0	0	1	1	3	0	2	3	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2	1	2	0	1	6	4	3	4	1
Influenza	3	13	4	19	6	20	5	20	5	1

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The following Table gives details as to Infant Mortality in 1934 :—

Net Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 Year of age. Rochester District.

TABLE H.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 week.	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks.	4 Weeks and under 3 Months.	3 Months and under 6 Months	6 Months and under 9 Months	9 Months and under 12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
Immature Birth	5	1	—	—	6	—	1	—	—	7
Asphyxia at Birth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Congenital Heart Disease	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	5
Rickets	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Other Causes	2	—	—	1	3	1	1	2	2	9
Totals	8	1	—	1	10	4	4	4	2	24
Net Births 480					Net Deaths registered 24					

ANTE-NATAL CARE.

A scheme to provide medical and nursing care of expectant mothers has been initiated and will become operative in 1935.

DENTAL TREATMENT.

Dental treatment for children under 5 years of age and expectant mothers will be available in 1935.

HEALTH VISITORS' ANNUAL REPORT, 1934

During the year, 441 births were registered in the District, of which 14 were illegitimate. The total was made up as follows:—

	Males	Females	Total
South	113	117	230
North	103	108	211
	<hr/> 216	<hr/> 225	<hr/> 441

The total number of births (corrected for inward and outward transfer) in the City was 480 (R.G.'s. figure.)

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT

456 births were notified under the Act of which 16 were still-births. The notifications were made up as follows:—

Doctors	Midwives	Parents
162	290	4

502 infants were visited by the Nurses, who paid a total of 3,266 visits or an average of 6.5 visits to each infant.

The following Table affords particulars respecting the infants visited:—

Infants visited during 1934: Total Number, 502.

KIND OF FEEDING	Total	Percentages
1. Entirely breast-fed	294	58.5
2. Hand and breast-fed	42	8.3
3. Entirely hand-fed	166	33.0
KIND OF FOOD (when hand fed)—		
1. Fresh Cows' Milk and Water	12	2.3
2. Dried Milk	154	30.6
3. Patent Foods	3	.5
4. Condensed Milk	38	7.5
5. Biscuits, Groats, etc.	1	.1
MODE OF FEEDING—		
1. Boat Shaped Bottle	207	41.2
2. Spoon	1	.1
CONDITION OF HOUSE —		
1. Clean	430	85.6
2. Fairly Clean	60	11.9
3. Dirty	8	1.5
4. Very Dirty	4	.7

OVERCROWDED HOUSES

More than 2 persons per bedroom: Total 121. Percentage 24.1.

All infants reckoned breast-fed in the above Table were still fed in the same way at or about the age of six months.

There were five pairs of twins.

Fifty-eight cases not notified under the Act were visited and are included in the above figures.

In two instances the Nurses were refused admission.

There were 24 deaths of infants under one year of age. This gives a mortality per thousand births of 50.0.

725 inward transfers of children under five years of age were received during the year, 129 of whom were under one year of age, and 596 over one year of age. This high figure of 725 is due to an extension of the City Area which came into effect on April 1st, 1934.

BIRTHS OCCURRING IN THE CITY.

No births occurred in houses of one apartment, 32 occurred in houses of two apartments, 37 in houses of three apartments, 116 in houses of four apartments, and 1 in houses of five apartments and over.

BIRTHS OCCURRING OUTSIDE THE CITY.

Number in Nursing Homes	45
Number in Hospitals	12
Number occurring in Nursing Homes in the City Area	18
Number occurring in Hospital in the City Area	2

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDER

125 new applications were received for the supply of dried milk free or at a reduced price, and the following particulars are given regarding these applications.

Dried Milk supplied to Expectant Mothers	31
do. Nursing Mothers	41
do. artificially fed Infants	32
do. children between 1 and 5 years of age	21
	<hr/>
	125

At the end of the year there were 130 cases receiving milk free of cost, and 7 cases at a reduced price.

During the year under report 6,553 lbs. of dried milk were distributed free of cost and 348 lbs. at less than cost price.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION

The Infant Life Protection Visitors are the two Health Visitors employed by the Local Authority. During the year 82 visits were paid by the Health Visitors.

The following notices were received during the year:—

Reception of Nurse Child	13
Change of Address	3
Return to Parents	4
Removed to Cottage Homes	1
Adoption	1
	<hr/>
Total	22

At the end of the year there were 9 children on the register.

CLASSIFICATION OF VISITS PAID DURING 1934

First visits to Infants under 1 year	502
Subsequent visits to Infants under 1 year	2,764
Infectious Disease visits	11
Visits of enquiry into still-births	15
Infants' Deaths enquired into	14
Children's Deaths enquired into	6
Registered Nursing Homes visited	4
Infant Life Protection—No. of visits	82
Ante-Natal Visits	177
Children visited between 1 and 5 years	3,953
Special visits	75
Miscellaneous and Ineffectual visits	1,061
	<hr/>
Total	8,664

The following Table shews the number of cases seen by the Medical Officer Health.

Infants under one year of age	137
Children between 1 and 2 years of age	60
Children between 2 and 3 years of age	32
Children between 3 and 5 years of age	28
Ante-natal cases	17
Post-natal cases	24
Nursing Mothers	37
Infant Life Protection. No. of Children	1
Mental Defectives. No. of Children	4
Miscellaneous	2
	<hr/>
	342

Seven of the children seen by the Medical Officer were sent to St. Bartholome Hospital for treatment.

ATTENDANCES AT MILK DISTRIBUTING CENTRE 1934	
Infants under one year	2,163
Children between one and five years	682
Ante-Natal Cases	55
Infant Life Protection	19
Miscellaneous	147
	<hr/>
Total	3,066

Seven cases of neglected children were reported to the National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Hospital Tickets were given in 12 necessitous cases.

One inquest was attended.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN VISITED

Under one year of age	...	...	502
One to two years of age	...	...	430
Two to three years of age	...	...	392
Three to five years of age	...	...	1130
			<hr/>
Total	...	...	2454

14 Children over five years and under 9 years of age were visited under the Children Act.

NUMBER OF FIRST ATTENDANCES AT THE MILK DISTRIBUTING CENTRE

Children under 1 year of age	178
Children between 1 and 5 years of age	246
Ante-Natal Cases	47

REPORT AS TO ST. WILLIAM'S HOSPITAL FOR THE YEAR 1934

301 patients were admitted during the year.

The following Table shews the total admissions from each District in the past 9 years :—

Year	Rochester	Chatham	Gillingham	Other Authorities	Total
1926	103	279	175	0	557
1927	78	295	139	11	523
1928	155	263	246	35	699
1929	132	128	202	15	477
1930	119	108	84	16	327
1931	104	70	54	4	232
1932	55	131	11	1	198
1933	131	140	0	28	329
1934	162	123	0	16	301

The average yearly number for the ten years preceding 1926 was 256.8.

The average yearly number for the last 9 years, including 1934, was 363.9.

The following Table shews the total admissions in 1934 :—

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Tuberculous Meningitis	Total
Rochester	97	60	4	1	162
Chatham	93	30	0	0	123
Other Authorities	11	4	1	0	16
Totals	201	94	5	1	301
Deaths	3	2	0	1	

The operation of tracheotomy for Laryngeal Diphtheria was performed on two occasions during the year, that of mastoidotomy on two occasions, and other operations were performed on eight occasions.

ACCOMMODATION

See Table on page 10.

NUMBER OF DAYS DETAINED IN HOSPITAL

AVERAGES

	In 1934	In 1933	In 1932	In 1931
Scarlet Fever	35.7	36.6	36.1	36.7
Diphtheria	33.3	27.3	25	29
Typhoid Fever	31.2	-	63.8	-

TABLE I.
CAUSES OF DEATH IN ROCHESTER IN 1934
CIVILIANS ONLY

Causes of Death		Males	Females
ALL CAUSES		209	199
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	—	—
2	Measles	—	3
3	Scarlet fever	1	—
4	Whooping cough	1	1
5	Diphtheria	1	—
6	Influenza	2	1
7	Encephalitis lethargica	—	1
8	Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	17	8
10	Other tuberculous diseases	2	5
11	Syphilis	—	—
12	General Paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	— 1	— —
13	Cancer, malignant disease	27	27
14	Diabetes	1	2
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	9	9
16	Heart disease	58	65
17	Aneurysm	2	—
18	Other circulatory diseases	7	3
19	Bronchitis	6	10
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	18	13
21	Other respiratory diseases	2	1
22	Peptic ulcer	1	—
23	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ...	1	1
24	Appendicitis	1	2
25	Cirrhosis of liver	—	—
26	Other diseases of liver, etc.	—	2
27	Other digestive diseases	2	2
28	Acute and chronic nephritis... ..	3	2
29	Puerperal sepsis	—	2
30	Other puerperal cases	—	—
31	Congenital debility, premature birth, malformation, etc.	— 7	— 4
32	Senility	4	8
33	Suicide	4	3
34	Other violence	5	3
35	Other defined diseases	25	20
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	1	1
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)			
Small-pox		—	—
Poliomyelitis		—	—
Polioencephalitis		—	—
Deaths of Infants { Total		14	10
under 1 year { Legitimate		12	10
{ Illegitimate		2	—
Live Births { Total		234	246
{ Legitimate		227	236
{ Illegitimate		7	10
Stillbirths { Total		11	12
{ Legitimate		9	11
{ Illegitimate		2	1
POPULATION		32,807	

Annual Report of the Port Medical Officer, City of Rochester

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1934

I. Amount of shipping entering the Port Sanitary District during the year 1934.

TABLE A.

			No. Inspected		Number reported to be defective	Number of vessels in which defects were remedied
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspectors		
		Number	Tonnage			
Foreign	Steamers	354	313747	23	279	87
	Motor	85		9	80	6
	Sailing	1		0	1	0
	Fishing	0		0	0	0
Total Foreign		440	313747	32	360	93
Coastwise	Steamers	588	290713	14	494	93
	Motor	256		6	240	27
	Sailing	118		0	118	30
	Fishing	24		0	24	0
Total Coastwise		986	290713	20	876	150
Tot. Foreign & Coastwise		1426	604460	52	1236	243

Number of Vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage, infectious disease on board—
All Notices were informal.

Inspection of vessels engaged in Estuarial Traffic, 788. These figures represent inspections only, as no record is obtained of barges, etc., trading between ports on this river and the London river.

Total inspections of all craft, 2214.

II. Character of Trade of Port

TABLE B.

(a.) Passenger Traffic during 1934:—

Number of Passengers	1st Class	2nd Class	3rd Class	Transmigration
Inwards	0	0	0	0
Outwards	0	0	0	0

There were 51 alien passengers on cargo vessels.

The passenger traffic of the Port is confined entirely to day trips between Port and various seaside resorts.

(b.) Cargo traffic:—

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS.—Wood Pulp, Coal, Timber, China Clay, Bricks, Stone, Oil, Petrol, Iron Ore, Flour, Potatoes, Corn, Grain, Cotton Seed, Ground Nuts, various Seeds and Kernels for the making of Cattle Food, Fertilisers and Beet Sugar.

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS.—Cement, Cattle Cake, Oil, Paper, Fruit Boxes, Scrap Iron, Bitumen by-products of petrol refining.

Cement and paper are shipped to practically all parts of the world, either direct via London, Southampton, Liverpool, &c.

(c.) **COUNTRIES WITH WHICH THE PORT PRINCIPALLY TRADES.**

Import Trade is carried on with Scandinavian, French, Dutch, Belgian, German, Russian and Baltic Ports, and with West African, West Indian and American Ports.

The Principal British Ports with which trade is carried on are, Blythe, Keadby, Seaham Harbour, Tyne, Tees, the Scottish East Coast Coal Ports, Liverpool, Cardiff, Swansea, Barry, the Welsh Stone Ports, Channel Islands and the Cornish Stone and China Clay Ports.

NUMBER AND NATIONALITY OF VESSELS

British 1059, Dutch 146, Swedish 62, Norwegian 51, Danish 42, German 19, Estonian 9, Latvian 1. Total 1426.

III.

Source of Water Supply

(a.) For the Port. There are two sources of supply. The South Side of the River is supplied by the Chatham and District Water Company and the North Side by the Strood Water Works, the latter being the property of the Corporation of Rochester.

(b.) For Shipping. The supply is from the same sources.

(c.) Water Boat. One Water Boat is used for supplying the shipping. This craft is inspected at frequent intervals. The tanks are cleaned out frequently and have been cement-washed 4 times during the year.

V.

Infectious Disease

The arrangements for dealing with Infectious Disease were fully described in the Report for 1927, and have undergone no change.

TABLE C.
Cases of Infectious Disease landed from vessels.

Disease	No. of Cases during 1934		Average No. of Cases for previous 5 years	No. of Vessels Concerned
	Passengers	Crew		
Scarlet Fever	0	4	2.04	}
Polomyelitis	0	1	0	
Mumps	0	1	0	
Total Cases	0	6	2.04	1

The six cases of infectious disease enumerated above occurred in boys on board the Training Ship "Arethusa," which is moored off Upnor, and is situated in the Port of Rochester.

TABLE D.
Cases of Infectious Disease occurring on Vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

Disease	No. of Cases during 1934		Average No. of Cases for previous 5 years	No. of Vessels Concerned
	Passengers	Crew		
	0	0	0	0

No case of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Small Pox or Typhus Fever, and no Plague infected rats were found in 1934.

MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS

The steps taken for the detection of Rodent Plague in the ships in the Port and in warehouses, wharves, etc., in the vicinity are the same as those described in the Report for 1929.

Every person concerned with shipping is made aware of the significance of the finding of dead rats which have not been poisoned or killed in traps or by cargo working. Sickness or death amongst rats and mice are also dealt with in the Declaration of Health Certificate.

No measures are taken to prevent the passage of rats from ship to shore except where circumstances point to the presence of Plague infected rats to be suspected. Most of the vessels from foreign ports are moored to buoys in the streams where they discharge their cargoes into lighters, and rats which may reach the lighters from the ships are usually caught and killed by the cargo workers when discharging the smaller craft.

The smaller vessels discharge cargo alongside the wharves. Where plague-infected rats are likely to be present, the craft concerned is moored out in midstream and discharged into lighters. It is, of course, seldom necessary to adopt this procedure, although a case occurred some years ago in which a barge had loaded cargo from a steamer in another port. After the barge had received her cargo, rats in the steamer were found to be infected with plague. On arrival in this Port, the barge was moored to a buoy, and no other craft, with the exception of the lighter to receive the cargo, was allowed alongside. After discharging her cargo the barge was fumigated with Sulphur-dioxide and two rats were recovered. Neither of them produced any evidence of Plague and the possibility exists that they were on the barge before she received her cargo from the steamer. No rats were found in the lighter into which the barge's cargo was discharged.

In such cases Sulphur-dioxide is used as a fumigant. Other methods of dealing with rats are dogs, cats, traps, smoke machine, poison and "varnish yards," whichever is the most suitable for dealing with the conditions appertaining at the time. Where the presence of Plague-infected rats required the holds of a vessel to be fumigated with Cyanide as a preliminary to discharging cargo, it would be necessary to enlist the services of a firm specializing in this form of fumigation.

The owners and persons in charge of warehouses are aware of the possibility of disease being spread by rats. Relaxation of measures to discourage infestation results in the production of evidence of the loss and damage that rats are capable of causing, and a steady offensive is maintained by cats, traps and poisons. Several warehouse owners employ rat-catching firms to deal with their premises at fixed intervals.

Rat proofing. Although many of the riverside buildings are not built on rat-proof lines, attempts are made to keep the rodents out by securing metal plates over rat holes and the provision of wire netting over places such as ventilating apertures, etc. by which rats may gain entrance. The modern buildings are more satisfactory owing to the use of concrete.

RATS DESTROYED DURING 1934

TABLE E.

1. On Vessels:—About 45 rats were killed by cats, traps and cargo workers. There was no suspicion of Plague.

TABLE F.

2. In Docks, Quays and Warehouses:—

During the year, about 1500 rats were accounted for by the owners of the principal warehouses by means of cats, traps, etc. This does not include 148 rats killed by the rat-catcher in riverside buildings and other premises.

TABLE G.

Particulars of Plague “infected” or “suspected” Vessels arriving in the Port during 1934 are given under “General Sanitary Work of the Port.”

TABLE H.

Measures of deratisation—No certificates were issued.

VI. Hygiene of Crew Space

TABLE J.

Nationality of Vessel	No. Inspected during 1934	Defects of Original Construction	Structural Defects through Wear and Tear	Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to Health
British	906	6	71	234
Other Nations	330	2	25	123
Estuarial	788	4	19	43

All instructions were verbal.

VII. Food Inspection

(a.) Cargoes of Flour, Potatoes, Wheat, Oats, Maize, Linseed, Barley and Sugar to the number of 113 cargoes were examined.

(b.) Shell Fish. Oysters are grown on various creeks in the lower reaches of the River Medway and whilst it cannot be said that the river is entirely free from pollution, no case of sickness has so far resulted from the consumption of these shell fish. The oyster beds are worked by oyster merchants who place the oysters on the market. There is another type of shell-fish gatherer known as a “Free Fisherman”. This person must possess a licence issued by the local Chamberlain of Fisheries before he is allowed to gather oysters, and any oysters so gathered must be disposed of by an oyster merchant to prevent the haphazard placing of small parcels of oysters on the market in which case it would be difficult to discover the source of any illness that might arise from the consumption of such shell-fish. Certain areas of the river are placed out of bounds so far as oyster gathering is concerned.

There are no shell-fish imported into the Port.

Small parcels of mussels, winkles and clams are examined whenever they are seen and it has not been necessary to seize any of these shell-fish during the year.

III.

Other Information

REPORT AS TO EXECUTION OF CANAL BOATS ACTS FOR THE YEAR 1934

The remaining two canal boats have been struck off the register and there are now no canal boats operating on the Lower Medway. The place of these vessels is taken by lighters and small motor craft.

2. GENERAL SANITARY WORK OF THE PORT

(a.) The staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health, one Port Sanitary Inspector and a launchman who also acts as general assistant.

(b.) A motor launch is provided.

(c.) The Port has no special provision for cleansing and disinfecting verminous persons, but, in case of need, the disinfecting station at the Medway Hospital would be available.

(d.) There is no arrangement for the receipt of wireless messages, relating to the health of the crews of incoming vessels, nor does such an arrangement seem necessary at present.

(e.) In addition to the cargo traffic of the Port, there are several large day trip passenger vessels operating between the Kent and Essex seaside resorts and between Dover and France. These vessels are inspected from time to time.

There are two large vessels permanently moored in the District, one of which is used as a club, the other being the Training Ship "Arethusa."

(f.) There are several small house boats on the river, used as dwellings. These are inspected from time to time.

(g.) It has not been necessary to take any action during the year with respect to Plague "Infected" or "Suspected" vessels. The majority of vessels arriving in the upper reaches of the river are from countries not associated with plague. Vessels from tropical ports arrive in the lower reaches and in common with the larger vessels arriving in the upper reaches, discharge their cargoes into lighters whilst moored to buoys out in the stream.

The vessels may thus be said to occupy a quarantine berth during the time they are in this port.

3. CASES OF SICKNESS

Four cases of Scarlet Fever, one case of Poliomyelitis and one case of Mumps were removed to hospital. Cases of sickness of a trivial and non-infectious character were noted, and where it appeared advisable, medical attention was recommended.

4. GENERAL

Outlying parts of the district have been visited from time to time and offer nothing for comment.

The Port Regulations have been circulated to owners and others and re-posted where necessary.

Various complaints respecting rats and other nuisances have been investigated and the nuisances have been dealt with.

5. COMPLETE LIST OF VESSELS INSPECTED IN 1934

Estuarial	{	Ships ...	...	...	...	1426
		Barges	...	...	...	707
		Lighters	...	...	...	53
		Water Boats	...	...	...	8
		House Boats	...	...	...	20
Total						<hr/> 2214

The following are the figures for the arrivals (other than estuarial craft) for the preceding five years and 1934.

		No.	Tonnage
1934	...	1426	604460
1933	...	1260	540825
1932	...	1100	453492
1931	...	1432	501642
1930	...	1485	488879
1929	...	1491	456387